



NEWSLETTER

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY



MESSAGE FROM SDDVA SECRETARY WHITLOCK

Every day, we wake up to the gift of freedom because of the men and women who wore the uniform; that stood guard and protected us. They are the greatest icon of the American spirit.

Their love for this country was so strong, they signed a blank check made payable to the United States of America for an amount of “up to and including their life.” They left home and family having no idea where their mission would take them; living in flawed conditions. They gave everything they had to our country for the entire length of their service. They pushed themselves physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually to be able to serve.

Veterans of all ages have greatly contributed to the future of this country. November provides us all a great opportunity to honor and recognize the unique sacrifices that they and their family members made.

On Veterans Day, November 11, and throughout the month of November, we celebrate those who have honored our country with their service and sacrifice. Our courageous men and women in uniform have earned our enduring respect and gratitude.

November is also National Military Family Month, National Family Caregivers Month, and Warrior Care Month. With hundreds of thousands of service members deployed overseas, recognizing the daily sacrifices made by them and their families has never been more important.

My challenge to you is simple – let us dedicate November to honor these special heroes. There are so many ways to say thank you – write a note of thanks, thank them publicly on social media, offer workplace flexibility, provide job opportunities, perform a random act of kindness, or donate to a charity on their behalf. Our character as a Nation is revealed through the honor we accord them, and measured by the respect with which we care for them.

Let us resolve never to stop trying to build that better world for which our veterans and their families have sacrificed. Let us all draw strength from their long legacy of service.

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Don't Forget!



Clocks

*F A L L
back this weekend*

WINNER VETERANS STAND DOWN

Gregory County Veterans Service Officer Dale Reber and Tripp County Veterans Service Officer Milton Douglas hosted an informational booth at the Veterans Stand Down in Winner October 27.

This event afforded them the opportunity to visit one-on-one with veterans about the various benefits and services available to them and their families.



HELPLINE CENTER

The Helpline Center is excited to announce the launch of a new customizable Holiday Guide feature on their website. Whether you need some help during the holidays or if you'd like to provide assistance to others, they have you covered.

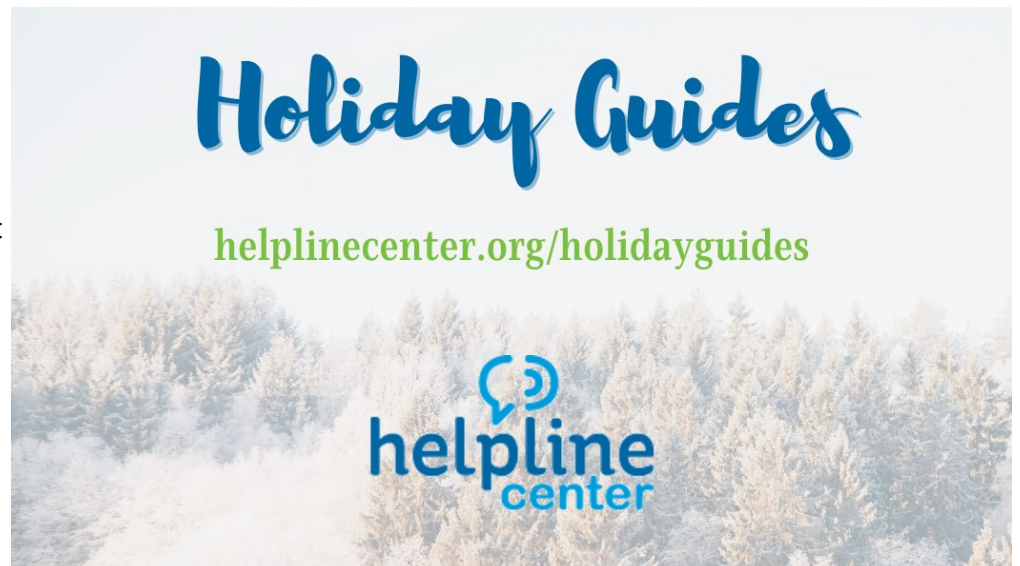
This resource is available for anyone in South Dakota that is interested in finding holiday resources or who would like to volunteer or donate. Basically, enter your location and select which resources you're interested in and then simply click on the Create Guide button. The lists will continue to be updated as they are notified of additional resources and opportunities, so check back often. If your organization would like to be listed or if you're aware of additional resources in your community, please help share this link to get them added <https://www.helplinecenter.org/2-1-1/resource-guides/create/?templateid=703071> or call them at 211.

Giving Tuesday is held each year on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, and by design occurs after Black Friday and

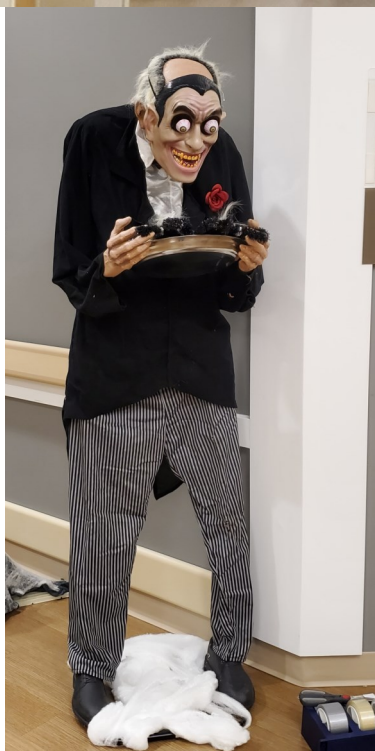
Cyber Monday, when many have enjoyed shopping for the best deals. The idea is to inspire a shift in the messaging and thinking to one of giving. The Helpline Center is fortunate to have been chosen by Thrivent to be a recipient of matched gifts on Giving Tuesday which will be held this year on Tuesday, November 30th. All of the funds raised on Giving Tuesday will support their suicide prevention and crisis support programs.

To donate, visit Thrivent's Giving Tuesday donation page <https://bit.ly/3AIQV90> on Tuesday, November 30, and make a special contribution to support the 211 mission. Thrivent will amplify your impact by matching \$1 for every \$2 raised—up to \$20,000 per regional Thrivent Member Network. Plus, all online processing fees will be covered by Thrivent, meaning 100% of your gift will go right to the Helpline Center.

Share photos, messages of gratitude, and inspiration on their donation page <https://bit.ly/3AIQV90>. For each photo or message posted on this page between November 23 and November 30, Thrivent will donate an additional \$1 up to \$1,000 for the Helpline Center!



HALLOWEEN FUN AT THE STATE VETERANS HOME



Residents and staff at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home had a night full of frights and trays full of delights! They all had a fang-tastic celebration!



VA RELEASES CYBERSECURITY STRATEGY TO SECURE VETERAN INFORMATION AND PRIVACY

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs published new cybersecurity [strategy](#), Nov. 4, to protect against exposure of veterans' personal information or the corruption of critical data.

Veteran data is of great interest to adversaries who seek financial gain and other types of exploitation.

Loss or compromise of information can place veterans and the Department's mission at risk. To safeguard against fraudulent activities, the VA developed a strategy outlining a measurable and effective framework enabling the protection and resilience of the VA's most critical business functions and assets.

"As we continue to rapidly advance technology across the VA, this strategy provides an agile framework to address the challenges of today and adapt to the technologies and threats of tomorrow," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dennis McDonough. "This comprehensive approach practices accountability and transparency, while remaining hyper-vigilant of cyber threats — charting a course for success at the individual and enterprise levels."

The strategy outlines five goals focused on maintaining a robust and resilient technology environment that advances the VA's mission, including:

- Secure and protect VA and Veteran information;
- Protect information systems and assets;
- Leverage innovation to strengthen cybersecurity;
- Enhance cybersecurity through partnerships and information sharing;
- Empower VA mission through cybersecurity risk management.

The Cybersecurity Strategy aligns to and enables the [FY18-24 VA Strategic Plan](#). It takes into consideration existing and new Federal cybersecurity requirements, Executive Orders, technological advancements, innovations, and world events that have impacted the way the VA delivers services. The VA's Cybersecurity Strategy can be found at: <https://www.oit.va.gov/about/cybersecurity-strategy/>.



Department of Veterans Affairs
FY 2018 – 2024 Strategic Plan

Refreshed May 31, 2019



South Dakota Veterans Cemetery



Our Mission: Remember, Honor, Teach

Your donation will help us carry out our
Mission to honor our local servicemembers

Saturday, December 18, 2021 at 11:00 AM

South Dakota Veterans Cemetery — Sioux Falls, SD

CROSSROADS

November 20, 2021

7:45 AM-4PM MST

Camp Rapid, Rapid City, SD

If you have 18 years of service, this event is for you.

Spouses are encouraged to attend!

RSVP is REQUIRED

To register contact:

Mr. Kenny Wheeler

Transitional Assistance Advisor

605-737-6669

kenneth.d.wheeler.ctr@mail.mil

TOPICS COVERED

Retired Pay

Tricare

Survivor Benefit Plan

Military Funeral Honors

Survivor Outreach

MilitaryOneSource

Transition Assistance

Federal & State Benefits

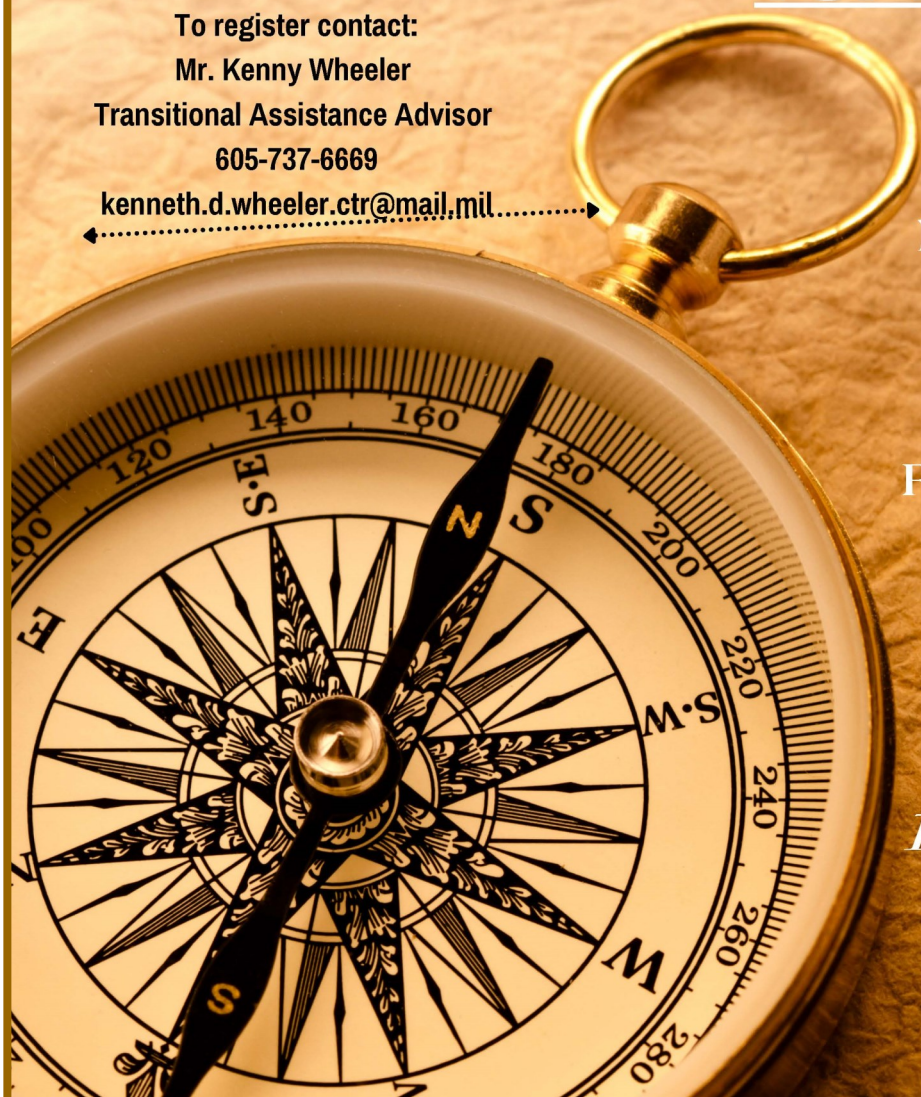
VA Services

Address:

2823 West Main

Rapid City, SD 57702

Building 802



UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 9—USD Coyote Women's Basketball Military Appreciation Day—Sanford Coyote Sports Center—
Vermillion—7:00 pm (CT)
Nov 11—State Offices Closed
Nov 11—Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—SSG Gregory Wagner—Hanson High School (600 Juniper Street)—
Alexandria—10:00 am (CT)
Nov 11—USD Coyote Men's Basketball Military Appreciation Day—Sanford Pentagon—Sioux Falls—1:30 pm (CT)
Nov 13—Northern Hills Veterans Appreciation Fair—Sturgis Community Center (1401 Lazelle Street)—12:00—
3:00 pm (MT)
Nov 20—SDNG Crossroads Event—Camp Rapid (Building 802) —Rapid City—7:45 am (MT)
Nov 25-26—State Offices Closed
Dec 7—Governor's Budget Address
Dec 18—Wreaths Across America—South Dakota Veterans Cemetery—Sioux Falls—11:00 am (CT)
Dec 24—State Offices Closed
Dec 31—State Offices Closed

2022

Jan 10—POW/MIA Chair of Honor Dedication—State Capitol—2:00 pm (CT)
Jan 11—Governor's State of the State Address
Jan 12—SD Veterans Council Meeting—RedRossa Italian Grille—Pierre—3:00 pm (CT)
Jan 12—SD Veterans Council/SDDVA Legislative Reception—RedRossa Italian Grille—Pierre—5:30—7:30 pm (CT)
Feb 18-20—American Legion Mid Winter Conference—Oacoma
Jun 9-12—State VFW Convention—Ramada Inn—Mitchell
Jun 12—Midwest Honor Flight Annual Honor Ride
Jun 16-19—State American Legion Conference—Watertown
Jul 18-23—National Veterans Golden Age Games—Sioux Falls
Jul 31-Aug 4 – Military Order of the Purple Heart National Convention – Rapid City
Aug 15-18—SDDVA Annual CTVSO Benefit School



Audry Ricketts, Public Information Officer
South Dakota Department of the Military <https://military.sd.gov/>
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs <https://vetaffairs.sd.gov>
Soldiers and Sailors Building - 425 E Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-8242
E-mail address: audry.ricketts@state.sd.us

